

JONKELIS (YON-KEL-IS)

Lithuanian Quadrille

V. F. BELIAJUS



"The Rings" figure in "Jonkelis." Drawing by our Robert Treonis.

Žemaitija (Northern Lithuania) is the home of this beautiful dance. The derivation of the name is uncertain: It may be derived from the Jewish given name "Jonkel" with the Lithuanian diminutive ending added. Thus we have "Jonkelis", which would mean "Little Jack", or "Johnny". However, the dance is pure Lithuanian. The dance, remotely, may have been suggested by the Jewish wedding Shers, for Jonkelis, too, is mostly seen at Lithuanian weddings. There isn't even a remote resemblance between the two, though. The dance is replete with weaving and spinning figures. Perhaps it was intended to suggest to the bride that among other tasks, as a wife, there will be a life of weaving cloth and spinning yarn, which is one of the winter-long activities of the Lithuanian women.

RECORD: Victor 26-5510.

This is an excellent record. It was recorded originally in Lithuania, about 1938, at the Metropole Hotel of Kaunas. It was re-issued recently in London. There is approximately 32 measures too much music for the dance on the record, however. This could be remedied by additional spins during critical moments; just before Part III and just before meas. 1-2 (repeated) of Part IV, when corners clap toward one another. That way the dance can be terminated with the record.

NOTE MUSIC: In the "Dance of Lietuva" by V. F. Beliajus. pp. 64-66.

LITHUANIAN DANCE POSITION: Boy faces partner, his R hand around her waist, her L hand on his R shoulder, his L hand on her R upper arm (below the shoulder), while her R hand is on his L shoulder. (R shoulder adjacent.)

FORMATION: Four couples in a square. The girl is to the boy's right. Hands at sides. Walking step used throughout the dance. The turn is always done in Lithuanian dance position.

INTRODUCTION: Three chords (2 meas.); all dancers stamp 3 times with R foot.

PART I - WEAVING.

- Meas. 1-2 Girls 1 and 3, with hands holding skirts, pass each other, back to back, in the center of the square, leading with R shoulders, 4 walking steps.
- 3-4 Boys 1 and 3 start across the square, passing opposite girls back to back, leading with L shoulder almost immediately, and passing each other back to back, leading with R shoulder in the center, 4 walking steps.
- 5-6 Couples 1 and 3, having changed places, turn in place with walking steps, while girls 2 and 4 cross over as in Meas. 1-2.
- 7-8 Couples 1 and 3 continue turning in place. Boys 2 and 4 cross over as in meas. 3 and 4.
- 1-8 Repeated: Repeat Meas. 1-8. Couples 2 and 4 turn in places during Meas. 1-4 as couples 1 and 3 change places.

PART II - CROSSING

- 9-10 As couples 2 and 4 turn in place, boys 1 and 3 cross over to opposite girls (girls remaining in place), with 4 walking steps, passing with R shoulders.
- 11-12 As boys 1 and 3 turn opposite girls in place, boys 2 and 4 cross over to opposite girls with 4 walking steps, passing with R shoulders.
- 13-14 Repeat Meas. 9-12 (returning to own partners). Boys 2 and 4 turn in place with opposite girls, as boys 1 and 3 return to own partners.
- 15-16 While boys 1 and 3 turn own partners in place, boys 2 and 4 return to own partners. All couples turn in place.

PART III - CORNERS

- 1-2 Girls remain in place as all boys, passing their own partners, walk to the girl to their right.
- 3-4 Turn this girl with 4 walking steps.
- 5-6 Boys return to own partners with 4 walking steps.
- 7-8 Turn own partners with 4 walking steps.
- 1-8 Repeated. Repeat meas. 1-8 just described, all boys moving to the girl to their left and back to own.

PART IV - CLAPPING

- 9-12 Girls remain in place as boys 1 and 3 approach each other with 4 walking steps. On the last step boys clap their own hand once. Couples 2 and 4 turn in place.
- 13-16 Boys 2 and 4 repeat meas. 9 and 12 just described, as couples 1 and 3 turn own partners with 8 walking steps.
- 9-16 (Repeated) Boys cross over as in Part II.
- 1-2 Girls remain in place as boys 1 and 4 and boys 2 and 3 approach each other and clap as in meas. 9-10 above.
- 3-4 Boys turn about and return to own partners with 4 walking steps.
- 5-8 Turn own partner with 8 walking steps.
- 1-2 (Repeated) Boys 1 and 4 and boys 2 and

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3 change partners with 4 walking steps, passing R shoulders.

- 3-4 Turn new partners with 4 walking steps.
- 5-6 With 4 walking steps boys return to own partners.
- 7-8 Turn own partners with 4 walking steps.
- 9-16 (and repeat): Repeat meas. 1-8 (and repeat) just described, boys 1 and 2 clapping and changing places as boys 3 and 4 clap and change places.

PART V - RINGS

- 1-2 Couple 3 hooks R arms and turns in place. Couple 4 does the same. Boy 1 approaches couple 2 with 4 walking steps. Girl 1 remains in place until her partner returns.
- 3-4 Couple 2 with boy 1 join hands and circle half way around. Couples 3 and 4 continue turning.
- 5-6 Couple 2 raises joined hands and leads boy 1 under arch toward couple 3. Boy 1 approaches couple 3 with 4 walking steps. Couple 2 hooks R arms and turns in place.
- 7-8 Boy 1 and couple 3 circle half way around. Couples 2 and 4 continue turning.
- 1-2 (Repeated): Couple 3 raises joined hands and leads boy 1 under arch toward couple 4. As boy 1 approaches couple 4, boy 2 approaches couple 3 with 4 walking steps. Girl 2 remains in place until partner returns.
- 3-4 Couple 4 plus boy 1 and couple 3 plus boy 2 circle halfway around.
- 5-6 Couple 4 raises joined hands and leads boy 1 under arch while couple 3 raises joined hands and leads boy 2 under arch. Boy 1 approaches his own partner with 4 walking steps as boy 2 approaches couple 4. Couple 3 hooks R arms and turns in place.
- 7-8 Couples 1 and 3 turn in place with R arms hooked. Couple 4 and boy 2 circle half-way around.
- 9-10 Couple 4 raises joined hands and leads boy under arch. Boy 2 approaches couple 1 with 4 walking steps as boy 3 approaches couple 4. Girl 3 remains in place till partner returns.
- 11-12 Couple 4 plus boy 3 and couple 1 plus boy 2 circle halfway around at the same time.
- 13-14 Couple 4 raises joined hands and leads boy 3 under arch as couple 1 raises joined hands and leads boy 2 under arch. Boy 2 approaches partner with 4 walking steps as boy 3 approaches couple 4 hooks R arms and turns in place.
- 15-16 Couples 4 and 2 turn in place with R arms hooked. Boy 3 and couple 1 circle half-way around.
- 9-10 (Repeated): Couple 1 raises joined hands and leads boy 3 under arch. Boy 3 approaches couple 2 and boy 4 approaches couple 1. Girl 4 remains in place.
- 11-12 Couple 2 and boy 3 as well as couple 1 and boy 4 circle half-way around.
- 15-16 Couples 1 and 3 turn in place with R arms hooked. Couple 2 with boy 4 circle

half-way around.

- 1-2 Couple 2 raises joined hands and leads boy 4 under arch. Boy 4 approaches couple 3. Couples 1 and 2 turn in place with R arms hooked.
- 3-4 Couple 3 and boy 4 circle half-way around. Couples 1 and 2 turn in place.
- 5-6 Couple 3 raises joined hands and leads boy 4 under arch. Boy 4 approaches own partner. Couples 1, 2 and 3 turn in place. All turn in place.
- 7-8 All turn in place.

PART VI - CIRCLE

- Meas. 1-8 (Repeated): All join hands facing center and circle to the right with 16 walking steps.

PART VII - WEAVING

- Meas. 9-16 (and Repeat): Repeat Part I.
- 1-8 Boy places R arm around girl's waist, girl places L hand on boy's R shoulder. Free hands up, waving sideways. Couple 1 leads others off the floor.



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